

Remarks

Claims 48, 50, 56, 58-62 and 64 have been amended. Claims 54 and 55 have been canceled. Therefore, claims 48-53 and 56-76 are now presented for examination.

In a Final Office Action filed October 2003, claims 48-76 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being unpatentable over Incardona et al. (EP 274045 A1). Applicants submit that the present claims are patentable over Incardona.

Incardona discloses an electronic odometer. The odometer includes a processor unit, interface units, memorizing means and display means. The processing unit includes a calculation unit, a ROM and two RAMs. One of the RAMs is used to store digits considered less significant of a distance traversed by a vehicle. See Incardona at col. 2, ll. 7-25. The memorizing means includes a once programmable non-volatile memory that is used to store more significant digits of the distance traveled by the vehicle. A pulse generator generates signals that electrical pulses with a frequency proportional to the distance traveled by the vehicle. The generator feeds an enabling signal to the processing unit each time the vehicle engine is started and the vehicle is about to traverse a distance col. 2, ll. 26 – col. 3, ll. 35.

Claim 48 of the present application recites controlling updates to a first value for a first counter and to a second value for a second counter at control logic by updating the first value for the first counter in response to the reading of a monotonic count. Applicants submit that there is no disclosure in Incardona of updating a count in response to a read. Incardona, instead discloses incrementing an odometer value based upon electrical pulses generated by a pulse generator, indicating the distance traveled by a vehicle. Incrementing an odometer value is not equivalent to updating a count value in response to the reading of a monotonic count. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Incardona.

Claims 49-53 depend from claim 48 and include additional features. Therefore, claims 49-53 are also patentable over Incardona.

Claim 56 recites updating a count value for a monotonic counter by a first value on a powering on condition. As discussed above, Incardona discloses incrementing an odometer value based upon electrical pulses generated by a pulse generator, indicating the distance traveled by a vehicle. However, there is no disclosure of updating the odometer value upon powering on the odometer. Instead, stored data is transferred from one of the RAMs to the other RAM (e.g., the RAM used to store digits considered less significant of a distance traversed by the vehicle) and is displayed. Thus, claim 56 is patentable over Incardona since Incardona does not disclose updating a count value for a monotonic counter by a first value on a powering on condition. Because claim 57 depends from claim 56 and includes additional features, claim 57 is also patentable over Incardona.

Claim 58 recites control logic to control updating the first and second counters by updating the first counter when the monotonic count is read. For the reasons described above with respect to claim 48, claim 58 is patentable over Incardona. Claims 59-63 depend from claim 58 and include additional features. Thus, claims 59-63 are also patentable over Incardona.

Claim 64 recites circuitry to maintain a monotonic count value and to update the count value by a number in response to a read of the count value for a monotonic counter. For the reasons described above with respect to claim 48, claim 64 is patentable over Incardona. Since claims 65 and 66 depend from claim 64 and include additional features, claims 65 and 66 are also patentable over Incardona.

Claim 67 recites circuitry to update the count value by a number in response to a powering on condition for the circuitry. For the reasons described above with respect to claim 56, claim 67 is patentable over Incardona. Because claims 68 and 69 depend from claim 67 and include additional features, claims 68 and 69 are also patentable over Incardona.

Claim 70 recites a second adder to maintain the second value based on one or more programmed locations in the flash memory. Applicants submit that nowhere in Incardona is there disclosed such features. Therefore, claim 60 is patentable over Incardona. Because claims 71 and 72 depend from claim 70 and include additional features, claims 71 and 72 are also patentable over Incardona.

Claim 73 recites one or more processors to read the first and second values. Applicants submit that Incardona does not disclose a processor to read values. Incardona discloses a processor unit. However that processor unit includes a ROM, two RAMs and a calculation unit. However, there is no disclosure that the calculation unit reads the odometer values. Thus, claim 73 is patentable over Incardona. Claim 74-76 depend from claim 73 and include additional features. Therefore, claims 74-76 are also patentable over Incardona.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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